Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01762 281137Z ACTION EUR-12

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R 281110Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3025
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: PGOV, CZ

AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

SUBJECT: HUSAK VISIT TO ROMANIA

- 1. OUR IMMEDIATE APPRAISAL OF THE PARTY/STATE VISIT TO ROMANIA JUNE 22-24 BY A DELEGATION LED BY CPCZ GENERAL SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC HUSAK IS THAT IT WAS VERY MUCH IN THE MOLD OF OTHER RECENT EXCHANGES OF VISITS BETWEEN WP LEADERS AND CEAUSESCU AND FULLY SERVED ITS PURPOSE OF SIGNALING THE RETURN TO NORMAL BILATERAL RELATIONS ON BOTH PARTY AND STATE LEVELS. HEAVY MEDIA PLAY HERE GAVE THE VISIT ALL THE ASPECTS OF A LOVE FEAST.
- 2. DOCUMENTS RESULTING FROM THE VISIT APPEAR UNREMARKABLE. THE CZECHOSLOVAK VISITORS GOT IN MENTIONS OF "INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY"

WHILE THE ROMANIANS GOT SUCH PHRASES AS "THE RIGHTS OF EACH PARTY TO ELABORATE INDEPENDENTLY ITS POLICY AND FREELY CHOOSE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01762 281137Z

ROAD OF SOCIALIST TRANSFORMATION ACCORDING TO SPECIFIC CONDITIONS IN WHICH IT WORKS."

3. MOST IMPRESSIVE TO US WATCHING TV COVERAGE WAS THE "RENT-A-CROWD" SYSTEM, WHICH BUCHAREST HAS OFTEN MENTIONED BEFORE BUT WHOSE MAGNITUDE FEW OF US HAD PREVIOUSLY HAD OCCASION TO SAVOR, AND CEAUSESCU'S WILLINGNESS TO DEVOTE SO MUCH OF HIS OWN

TIME TO CHAPERONING HIS GUESTS AROUND. ON CEAUSESCU'S RETURN VISIT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA HUSAK WILL BE HARD PUT TO MATCH HOSPITALITY.

4. FOR HRADCANY WATCHERS THE VISIT OFFERED ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE WAY HUSAK CAN DOMINATE A TV SCENE AND RELEGATE HIS TRAVELING COMPANION AND PUTATIVE RIVAL VASIL BILAK TO NEAR ANONYMITY. WE WILL BE INTERESTED IN ANYTHING BUCHAREST LEARNS FROM ITS ROMANIAN CONTACTS ON THE CHARACTER OF THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN HUSAK AND BILAK IN THE TALKS WITH THE ROMANIANS. BYRNE

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